

REMARKS

The present application now contains claims 1-4, 6-8, 10, 12, 16-17, 21-24, 26, 28-31, 33-36, 38-40, 42-43, 48-57 and 60-93. Claims 1, 2, 6, 12, 21, 22, 33, 34, 38, 54, 63 and 64 are amended; claims 5, 9, 11, 13-15, 18-20, 32, 37, 41, 44-47 and 58-59 are cancelled and claims 65-93 are new.

Claims 1, 5-24, 26, 28-33, 37-57 and 60-64 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 (first paragraph). Claims 1 and 33 have been amended to add the polymeric binder as suggested by the Examiner.

Claims 1-4, 10-14, 16-24, 26, 28-36, 42-46, 48-57 and 60-64 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over any of the patents of Dsajarlais, Kulkarni or Henry.

Claims 1 and 33 (the independent claims in the group) have been amended to limit the percentage of nano-silica to between 29% and 50%. As recognized by the Examiner, amounts of nano-silica above 29% show unexpected results. The upper limitation was added because the Kulkarni and Henry references both appear to teach the use of over 60% nano-silica in the coating.

The dependent rejected claims are patentable at least for the same reasons as the claims from which they depend.

In addition, new independent claims 65 and 84 have been added to claim a coating which distinguishes over the prior art in a different way. This claim is distinguished over the Dsajarlais reference by the fact limitation that the polymer forms a film. (See page 6, line 17 of the application for support of this limitation). Dsajarlais teaches at col. 4, lines 38-41; lines 56-59 and col. 4, line 65 to col. 5, line 29 that film formation is to be avoided. Since the Dsajarlais appears to depend on this feature for its operation, the present invention as claimed in claims 65 and 84 are not obvious in view of Dsajarlais.

Claims 15 and 47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. These claims have been cancelled and the rejection is moot.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, applicants submit that the claims are all patentable and that the application is ready for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
Y. ALMOG, et al.

Paul Fenster

Paul FENSTER,
Reg. No. 33,877

January 19, 2005

William H. Dippert, Esq.
Reed Smith LLP
599 Lexington Avenue, 29th Floor
New York, NY 10022-7650
Tel: (212) 521-5400